

## New AMA signs up on I-81, Route 11

Thanks to the generous contribution by an AMA cadet's mother, there are now official Department of Transportation signs on Interstate 81 and U.S. Route 11 (the Valley Pike) pointing the way to the AMA Alumni House/Museum. **Mrs. Joann West**, mother of **Norvell West, 83**, contributed in excess of \$10,000 to have the signs made and installed. The details will be found on page 9.

### *The Roller Rifles, marching again?*

If **Tom DeValle, '73**, has his way, The Roller Rifles will exhibit their unparalleled drill skills at on the AMA Parade Grounds at Reunion 2005.

Tom hopes to recruit fellow alumni who once more will form our famous drill team, and march either in exhibition or competition during the reunion.

Tom needs to hear from you soon if you are interested! All the details are on page 37.

### Korean, Vietnam War vets to be honored in museum display

For the past four years, the AMA Museum has had a tribute to the veterans of World War II as its principal display. Beginning in the Fall of 2005, that exhibition will be replaced by a display saluting AMA veterans who served in the Korean and/or Vietnam Wars.

**Master Sergeant Don Studer** says that "we will need the same kind of assistance we got from our World War II vets in order to set up an exhibition that pays proper tribute to our alumni who served in Korea and Vietnam."

**Master Sergeant Joe Josephson** says the museum is looking for uniforms, weapons, letters to and from home, medals and stories – particularly stories.

See more details on page 17.

**Three \$2,000 AMA Scholarships**

See pages 14-15

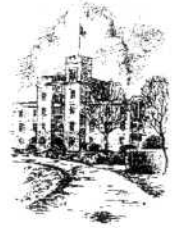
## **HIGH HOPES AND BROKEN HEARTS**

*The valiant and villainous attempts to reopen AMA*

*Begins on page 29*

## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

Fall 2004



I'm hopeful this issue of *The Bayonet* finds each of you happy and healthy. As our country emerges from the tragedies of terrorism and the pain of war, it's reassuring to reflect how fortunate we are to live in a country where freedom still reigns and the American Dream thrives.

As young men, we grew up faster than others our age. We made life long friends and developed family ties with other cadets that will stay with us forever. Yet, many of those we long to see again are only a memory. They don't frequent the Museum or attend reunions or send updates to *The Bayonet*. Finding them and seeing them again is our mission.

Recently, we were blessed with a generous donation which paid for Interstate and U.S. highway directional signs pointing travelers to the Augusta Military Academy Museum. These signs are installed and acting as "silent criers." We expect that these signs will help bring lost alumni back to visit the campus and help to locate their AMA brothers who have stayed away for so long.

In order to keep these highway signs in place, it is mandatory that we extend the hours of operation of our museum to nearly twice as many hours as in the past. This requires additional funds and time for staff, utilities, and maintenance. We need your contribution of time and/or financial donations. Please act now to set aside a weekend to help at the house, or send in a check to support this worthy cause. Your contribution of time is more rewarding than imaginable: just ask the many who have previously given us a day or two!

Reunion 2005 is shaping up very nicely. The theme is "Until There Are Two" and will remind everyone that one day only two AMA alumni will remain. They will toast the memory of all who went before them. This helps stress our desire to locate as many lost alumni as possible to bring them back into the AMA family. The Friday reunion trip will be to Appomattox to see where the Civil War ended and will be hosted by last year's guest speaker, Dr. Mary DeCredico, Assistant Dean and Head of the History Department at the US Naval Academy. The dates are April 28-29-30. It's not too early to reserve rooms. Look for further details on the back page. If you haven't experienced an AMA reunion, you'll not want to miss next year's activities.

The reunion next year will conclude our five-year tribute to our World War II vets and we will orate the final roll call of the 53 AMA cadets who lost their lives in that war. Next fall, the AMA Alumni Museum will open an exhibit in tribute to AMA cadets and faculty who were involved in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Please join me in prayers that include: the wellness of all AMA alumni and their families; the safe return of our soldiers fighting the War on Terrorism; peace for the residents of the Southeast who were pelted by Hurricanes; and wisdom to our lawmakers to make sound decisions.

See you in April 2005...just 6 months away!

*Garry Granger, '71*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



**Volume 2004, Number 4**

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P.O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

Editor: Bob Bradford, '50  
Circulation Manager: Ed Click, '50

*The Bayonet* is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy.

Notice of changes of address should be sent to ADDRESS CHANGE, P. O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101.

Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code!

*The Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirements, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

Clear, correctly exposed photos are always welcome. Digital photos? See page 28.

Mail, e-mail or FAX information to:  
Bob Bradford  
529 Justin Morgan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507  
Phone 925/855-7338  
FAX 925/855-7342  
e-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com

To reach our webpage:  
[www.AMAAlumni.org](http://www.AMAAlumni.org)

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Every time we mail a *Bayonet* to an incorrect address, the US Post Office charges us to forward the newsletter on to your new address and then give that new address to us.

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1935

(JULIAN QUARLES)

Colonel Will Parkins and his son, Bill, '70, have moved to an apartment at Bridgewater Home in Bridgewater. They were in the midst of their move during Reunion 2004 and we missed seeing them both.

Julian Quarles went to the reenactment of the Battle of Port Republic in June. Julian's uncle was in Company E of the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry in the 1862 battle, and was presented with a Union officer's sword by Stonewall Jackson after the Battle of Cedar Creek. Julian is an honorary member of the Augusta Greys, the nickname for the Confederate unit. In August, he attended the 79<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division, his World War II unit.

[JMQJR@aol.com]

George Adam, who was Julian's AMA roommate for four years, plans a trip to Australia in February and a trip to Fort Defiance next April for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his graduation from Augusta. George recently moved to Webster, TX.

1936

(TOM ROLLER)

Tom Roller and Dina have moved from Southern California to Mesa, AZ to be closer to Dina's children who live in the Phoenix area.

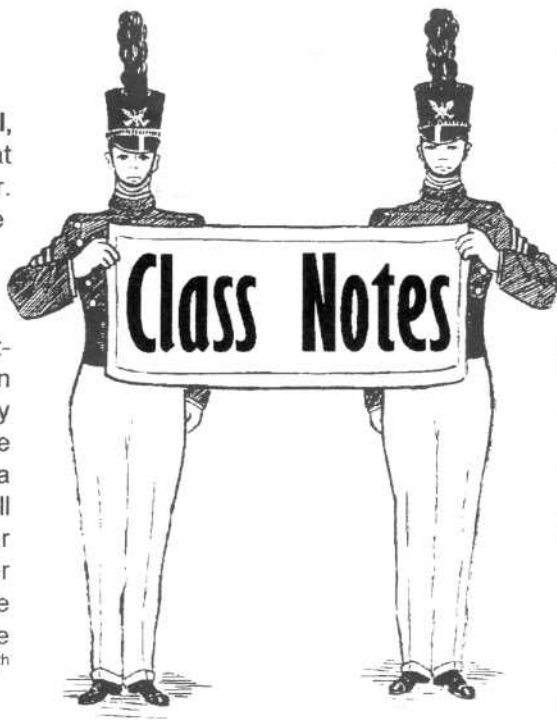
[taroller@earthlink.net]

1938

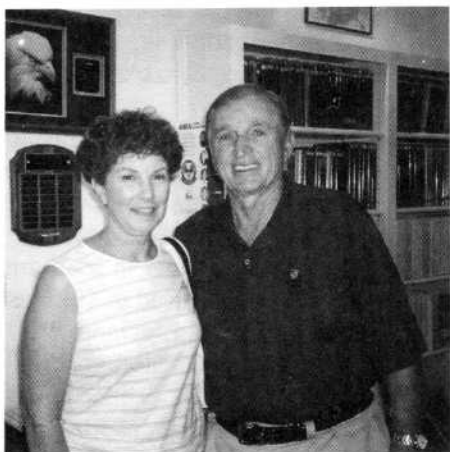
(LARRY KURTZ)

Doug Dillard has been located after having been on our list of the missing for many years. He lives in Winston-Salem and though he retired several years ago as Chairman of the Board of Washington Group, he goes to his office every day selling and leasing real estate.

Captain Larry Kurtz, USN, Retired, and Jill weathered the storm when Hurricane Charley ripped into their hometown of Punta Gorda, Florida. "In all my time at sea, I never saw the barometer go as low as it did when the storm passed over us," he said. They lost solar panels from their pool



Above, Betty Joyce and Willard Finney, '45, and, below, Denna and Bill Koellmer, '46, on their visits to the museum.



and a number of roof tiles, "but we have a strong house and it took the storm well." We were much relieved to hear that you folks are OK.

1943

(CHRIS HARRISON &amp; EARL CABANISS)

Jack Jansing has gotten a clean bill of health from his doctor after a bout with prostate cancer. "I had a ton of chemo and radiation," he says, "but I know that I owe everything to the wonderful prayers of support from so many good friends." The Jansings live in Hobe Sound, FL.

1944

(BILL McOWEN)

Earl Weed, First Captain his senior year, hopes to get back for Reunion 2005. Originally in the Class of '45, he doubled up on his work so he could graduate in 1944, immediately going into the service. The Weeds live in Dallas.

1946

(NONE)

Frederick Sprigg Hayes, Jr. was killed in action in the Korean War. Researchers just turned up this information recently.

1947

(MIKE WELCH)

Geoff Layng (see Larry Edwards, '62)

1949

(FRANK SPENCER)

Richard McLaughlin "shot the rapids" in June when he rafted down the New River Gorge for 20 miles to Parachute Bridge.

Ed Chauncey is doing well after having had eye surgery in April. We owe a debt to him and Bobby for all the work they are doing to process the mountain of files created while the school was open.

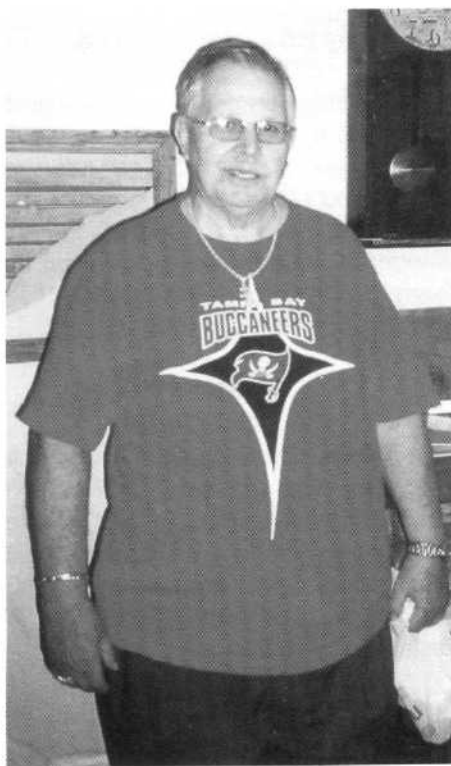
[sumhill@starpower.net]

1950

(JIM LUPTON)

Jack McKenna is retired and lives in Salisbury, MD. He is back on our mailing list thanks to Jim Sylvanus,

'49. Jim says that he, Jack and Don Carmichael, '48, were in an old neighborhood group and they get together a couple of times each year.



**Bob Ayres, '50, at the museum.**

Jim Starnes was back in the hospital in July to have stent number 14 installed in his coronary artery. Hope you continue to do well, Jim.

[jimstarnes3@comcast.net]

Ed Click and Sue are spending the month of October in Australia.

[gramps02@juno.com]

John Cole is still living in Houston though he and Betsy still have plans to build a house on two acres of land west of Richmond "just off the road that Thomas Jefferson used to go to Richmond from Monticello." Their only daughter, Cecil, was married in May. She lives near Dodger Stadium in LA where she is a photographer and videographer.

[paisanoviejo@pdq.net]

1951

(HAP STARR & FRANK PILLEY)

Bud Hargrave and Bett had a "walking

adventure" among the five villages of Cinque Terre, near Portofino and Genoa, in June. The Hargraves live in Lexington, NC.

[betthar@triad.rr.com]

Colonel Frank Pilley went to Norway and Finland in August. He has a full teaching schedule at George Mason University in Northern Virginia.

[JudyPilley@aol.com]

Hap Starr sadly reported to us that his good friend, Sid Taylor, had passed away at home after a short illness. Hap has written a tribute to Sid. (See page 66.)

Bill Parnell has been found after a long absence from the AMA sphere. It was Hap Starr, with the help of Jerry Wildman, '57, who finally tracked Bill down in Ocean Springs, Mississippi where he and Barbara, his date at the 1951 Final Ball and his wife for 53 years, live. Bill still captains shrimp boats, but no longer owns his own fleet. The family three boat shrimp fleet was once based at Punta Gorda, but relocated to Mississippi in 1989 "where the fishing is better". Bill hopes to come back for Reunion 2005. Great news, Bill!

Rod Willey, a member of the AMA Alumni Association Board of Directors and a Trustee of the AMA Alumni Foundation, has let us know about his new e-mail address. Rod and Sue live in Fort Defiance.

[rswilley8@earthlink.net]

1952

(JIM "SHAD" WHITE)

Duncan Wong checks in from Hawaii with a new e-mail address.

[dwpng@cableonda.net]

Roger Messick and Jean are taking their children on a Christmas cruise to the Mexican Riviera, leaving LA on 22 December returning 29 December. Roger, who had two tours in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, retired in 1995 as Chief Pilot for General Electric.

[TR MESSUP@aol.com]

Sy Nunn played football at AMA and

was the trainer for the basketball team. He lives in Arlington.

1953

(LEW MUNDIN)

Ted Basque retired four years ago from OEA Aerospace, now Goodrich. He lives in Del Webb Sun City in Lincoln, CA and keeps in touch with Manuel Balbis and Lew Mundin, and recalls how Jim and Ronnie Mahanes' mother was a second mother to him when he was an AMA cadet.

Al Wattay had successful hip replacement surgery in July and is doing well at home in Hilton Head Island. Good luck, Al!

[Dialwat@aol.com]



**FIFTY YEARS LATER - Pete Stone, '54, with his wife, Melanie, and daughter, Lauren, pose in Colonel Hoover's classroom.**

1954

(KEN HOKE)

Guy Townsend wrote that he enjoyed the last Bayonet so much that he has made a contribution to the AMA Alumni Foundation. Thanks, Guy!

[Wguyemilie@aol.com]

1955

(T. C. LEA, JR.)

T. C. Lea took his offspring to an outstanding Alaskan fishing adventure in August. His daughter, two sons, a step-son, and a grandson joined T. C. as they were dropped into the wilderness by a float plane. A grand time had by all!

[tclea@ns.gemlink.com]

